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21 SEP 1967

The Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach  
Under Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Nick:

I feel obliged to express my concern over the position to be taken by the US delegation to COCOM on the control of technological exports to Communist countries. As it has been described to me, the US position amounts to an abandonment of US veto powers in COCOM in favor of consultation and discussion of proposals involving licensing agreements for the manufacture of items currently under COCOM embargo. This approach not only concedes on the export of equipment and technology in the so-called Czech computer cases, but also concedes on all future cases of this type whether the item is under administrative exemption or not. The US position also weakens our capability to maintain control over the quantity and end use of such exports to Communist countries.

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I must also give some consideration to the fact that members of Congress frequently question me on the trade control process and will undoubtedly raise this matter when the US decision becomes public knowledge. Under the circumstances, I can only reply that I did not participate in the decision on either the specific case of the Czech computers or its farther-reaching implications.

Although further discussion of the issue may by now be academic, I would feel more comfortable if I could be assured that the considerations I have cited were fully taken into account in arriving at the US position.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms  
Richard Helms  
Director

CONCUR:

Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence Date

RWProctor:fbr (20 September 1967)

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